

UMTSHEZI MUNICIPALITY



9.3 CLEANSING

Daily street cleaning takes place at the 5 sections of Wembezi. Approximately 4 loads per section is removed daily utilising an LDV (one tonner)

10. PARKS & RECREATION

10.1 ESTCOURT

a. SWIMMING POOLS

Planning for Hildene swimming pools 50th Anniversary celebrations took place - a gala was held on the 24th January 2008 and all the schools in the area were invited to attend this function. All buildings at the pool were painted, broken windows replaced, toilets repaired and other minor defects attended to, with the assistance of the builders from Wembezi.



A major breakdown occurred with the pump and motor at Bert Tucker Swimming Pool. This equipment is old and requires replacing - funds will be requested in the 2008/2009 Capital Budget for the repairs to the filtration plant.

Fencing around Bert Tucker swimming pool remains a problem as it is cut almost daily by members of the public, and Municipal staff then have to repair it. Small children are gaining entry to this premises and it can have dire consequences for the Municipality. This fence must be replaced as a matter of urgency with stronger palisade type fencing.

b. CEMETERIES

The following recorded burials took place over this period (Recorded):

ESTCOURT		WEMBEZI		WEENEN		KWANOBAMBA	
Adults	52	Adults	275	Adults	2	Adults	48
Children	4	Children	68	Children	-	Children	5

Wembezi Cemetery:

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The purchase of land from Mr H. Moor to extend the Wembezi Cemetery has to date, not been concluded. This matter has been referred to Council for a decision. It appears however, that an alternative piece of land will have to be found.

Estcourt Cemetery:

The Civil Engineering Department assisted with the leveling of the new cemetery in Bank Road, and constructed a road at the site. The land was surveyed and a plan drawn up with the layout of graves. A storeroom, ablution and concrete bins will be built and fencing around the site investigated. Arrangements had been made for the purchase of a Kei Apple shrub to fence the cemetery, but the Nursery concerned have not managed to propagate the plant and an alternative may have to be found. The purchase of erf 1615 adjacent to this site, has not been finalised and has been referred for legal opinion.

c. GENERAL

- X Creosote poles were erected at Lambert Park in an effort to curb vehicles gaining access onto the sports fields.
- X Various sports fields were marked in Estcourt, Weenen and Wembezi. Assistance was also rendered to Imbabazane Municipality with the marking of a field.
- X Tree planting took place in different areas in town.
- X Seedlings and bulbs were purchased and planted in flower beds throughout town.
- X Routine tree trimming was attended to.
- X The aerodrome was prepared for annual inspection - the runways were painted and a new airsock put up. The Department of Civil Aviation were satisfied with conditions at the aerodrome and our licence was renewed.
- X Assisted with the preparations for the George Forder Hockey tournament, Phutu Festival and Canoe Race held at Lambert Park in August 2007.

11. SPORTS CO-ORDINATION & DEVELOPMENT

Various fields were bladed and prepared during the course of the year including Frere, Cornfields, Thembalihle, Qhosa, Mabhaloni, Mshayazafe, Mthweni, KwaMthaniya, Engodini, Longhomes. Soccer nets and poles were provided for a few of these fields.

Netball fields, poles and nets are needed in the following areas: Fire Station, "C" Section, Weenen, Thembalihle, Wembezi Stadium, Mabhaloni, Frere, Mahashini, Five Room and Cornfields.

The DSR Umtshezi Hub event took place and the following prizes were sponsored:

Soccer	Trophy and medals
Netball	Trophy and medals
Dance	T-shirts
Volleyball	Trophy and medals
Indigenous	T-shirts
Basketball	Medals

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Umtshezi are in the running for 2010!

Kwanaloga games took place on the weekend of the 30th. The games were hosted by Ugu District and all District Municipalities took part in the games and all codes were run. Our District did well in the games.

The following games and functions were attended to/played:

- Umtshezi Municipality Game, Umtshezi Municipality Game Code Prize.
- A horse racing event took place on the 30th December 2007 at Esigodlweni.
 - The prizes handed out were blankets for winners 1-3, race 1 to 8 from Uthukela.
- On the 27th December 2007 the Zulu Culture Municipality provided some equipment for the Zulu dancers and they won prizes - this event took place in Weenen.
- Soccer poles were erected at the Esigodlweni area.
- Umtshezi Municipality was the official winner of the games played at the opening of Imbabazane soccer field in October.
- SALGA Selections took place at the Uthukela District.

12. FIRE DEPARTMENT

The following calls were responded to:

Building	48	Spillage	11
Truck / Vehicle	17	Snakes	69
MVA/MVC	47	Bees	44
Electrical Fires	10	Special duties	68
Gas Fires/Leaks	1	Drills	42
Grass Fires/Refuse	119		

Fire drills - Regular hose drills; Rescue equipment drills; Sports drills and Vehicle checks were carried out.

12.1 VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT

A Mercedes Fire Tender was hired from Fire Raiders and a ISUZU KB bakkie from the Inkomfe Cluster Project, was fitted with a radio and other fire equipment for use in this Department.

12.2 STAFF

Rural Metro were appointed as Council's Fire Consultants, with effect from April 2008.

Five retained firefighters left the service in March 2008. This has compounded the problem of staff shortages. The compilation of the required Fire Brigade Services assessment report was done and completed identified gaps were corrected. This includes the salary grades of firefighters that were increased to level 08. Ensuring that all staff have relevant requirements for their positions e.g. drivers licenses etc.

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12.3 OPERATIONAL MATTERS

It was noted during the compilation of the required Fire Brigade Services assessment report that there are various infrastructure problems within the Fire Brigade Service. These matters were discussed in the assessment report and recommendations were also included (Report available for scrutiny of the identified gaps).

12.4 FIRE SAFETY MATTERS

General inspections were carried out at various premises and reports submitted. Trade licences were inspected on the request of the Licensing Officer and the necessary reports/memoranda forwarded to her.

12.5 MEETINGS

Fire Chief - D. Mullen, is now actively involved with the Fire Protection Association and is attending meetings.

13. INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

A process plan was designed so as to achieve a credible IDP 08/09. After extensive stakeholder meetings, the draft IDP 200820/09 was adopted by Council on the 28 March 2008 and forwarded to the Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs as requested on 29 January 2008.

An advertisement was placed in the local media requesting comments from stakeholders and general public in terms of the Municipal Systems Act No 32 of 2000. The closing date for comments is 30 April 2008. The draft IDP 200820/09 was made available at the following venues; Forderville Library, Weenen Library, Main municipal Buildings, Weenen Municipal Offices, Wembezi Offices, Wembezi Library and the Central Library.

14. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED)

LED forum was launched. The BR&E programme is underway. This remains a grey area for the municipality, nothing much is done off the ground except attending meetings and workshops.

15. TOURISM

- X Attended Bushmans River Tourism Meeting, stressed the importance of the upcoming Route and our involvement in it and getting our offices looking attractive and signage done so tourists are aware of our location.
- X Updated all brochures in the office.
- X Updated lists for accommodation, activities and places to eat. An increase in accommodation bookings were noticed during the month of September 2007.
- X Assisted with the arrangements of school trips/excursions of the Umtshezi and Drakensberg area.

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- X Worked with teachers from disadvantaged schools to prepare Tourism assignments and a tourism project for their schools since tourism is now a new subject they are offering.
- X A series of crafters meetings were held at Uthukela Municipality to assist crafters in opening businesses, registering their businesses and educating them on how the market operates and how it can work for them. They were taught how the tourism industry is linked with arts and crafts.
- X The Community Tourism Organisation held its workshop in the Drakensberg over two days. The aim of the workshop was to promote tourism in our organisations and to get us ready for 2010 and beyond! "Gay Tourism" was also touched on as Gay Friendly Training is now offered where staff are trained on how to treat gay people and how to register establishments as "Gay Friendly". It was also stressed that each city or town/district, to try and obtain 200 rooms during the world cup in order to have a satellite office established in our district.
- X Acquired updated information and input from the Tourism Association for the Estcourt brochure.
- X Met with Tourism in an attempt to start tourism awareness and workshops together with our Municipality, but funding is required.
- X Advertised our office on various tourism websites through Tourism KZN at no cost.
- X A workshop was held by the Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism regarding the Tourism Green Paper. The policy has the potential to further increase tourism awareness in our province and country, and that our country should be the choice of destination both nationally and internationally. The tourism market is now becoming demand driven and should be catered for, in order to achieve growth objectives. Tourism organisations should be aware that the Green Paper exists and understands how it works.
- X Our information office has been identified as a "tourist hot spot" due to its location, by a Switzerland company and we now have three months free advertising in Switzerland and Europe.

16. POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

The planning, economic and Community department co-ordinated the programme for the poverty alleviation Tractors which were purchased in August 2007. Seeds and seedlings were distributed.

ITEMS SUPPLIED TO THE PUBLIC

Date Issued	Given to Whom	Item Supplied	Cost
26 July 2007	Mrs Shezi	Vegetable seedlings (500 Onions, 500 Cabbage, 500 Spinach, 500 Beetroot, 500 Carrots, 5 Kg Potato seeds	R 365.00
2 August 2007	Mr Moloi Weenen Co-op Farmers	30 x 50 kg Winter-breaker ready-mix 30 x 50 kg Dairy meal 15 % Esco 210 Litres Diesel 50 Litres Oil (drawn from stores)	R6 327.00 R1 260.00 R 632.00

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2 November 2007	Esgodlwena Garden	2 x 50 kg potatoes 1 x packet spinach 1 x packet onion 1 x packet cabbage 2 x packet carrot 1 x packet beetroot	
	Mshayazafe Garden Isampunzane Garden Thembalihle Garden	8 x packet potatoes 1 x packet spinach 1 x packet beetroot 1 x packet onion 1 x packet cabbage 2 x packet carrot 3 x green pepper 13 x 50 kg 232 Manure 29 x Maize seeds 20 x potatoes 2 x onions 2 x spinach	
December 2007	Umtshezi Farmers Co-op	Assist with the hire of chairs, trestles and 2 x 2 pole tents	R1650.00
January 2008		RO 413 White Hybrid Maize Seed x 40	
January 2008		25 kg Seed potatoes x 45 2 kg Bean seed x 10	
	Mr Majola Rensburg Area	40 x 100g Carrots 40 x 100g Cabbages 40 x 100g Spinach	
	Councillor Mvelase	20 x 100g Carrots 20 x 100g Cabbages 20 x 100g Spinach	

CULTIVATION OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

ORGANISATION / COUNCILLOR	AREA
Masingathane Support Group Project	Thembalihle CP School
Isampunzana Co-operative	
Cllr Mageza	Ward one - Wembezi : Community Garden
B. Xaba	Brynbellia Project
Nhlalakahle Association	
Intathakuse Co-operative	Colita & Komdag
Umshayazafe - Mr M. Mbona	Umshayazafe Community Garden
Intathakusa Co-operative	
Basibambane Co-operative	Rensburg area - Ward 4
Philangezandla Co-operative	Ntokzweni
Cllr Dawood Vahed	Ward 4
Cllr Mhlongo	Thembalihle Area
Cllr Mvelase	Wembezi Area

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Cllr Mlele	Nkaseni, Msobotsheni, Nhlawe, Mhlabathini/Nsongeni, Ngodini, Mthaniya, Nalu Project, Vumbu/Gomba, Kwemadondo Project, Ngodini Women's Club, Msobotsheni, Nhlawe Tshidini Project, Yomba, Shameni Project, Sun Valley Farmers, Vumbu, Kwalugedla Project, Nontethe Phezulu, Nontethe Ngaphansi.
Speaker	Ten gardens in Rensburg (no names supplied)
Mr I. Majola (request from the Speaker)	Ten gardens (no names supplied)
Speaker	Paapkuilsfontein
Mhlabati Community	Mhlabati
Mr Moloi	Weenen
Mr Sokhela	Weenen
Mayor - Cllr Shelembe	Ennersdale

NB: This list is not a complete picture of the cultivation done and seedlings that were given away as a result of poor management of the distribution process to councillors and also councillors not honouring the council resolution to submit list of the things they have taken and places delivered to. The matter will be addressed in the new financial year by putting more effective distribution methods and getting the Council support in this matter as this process was being implemented for the first time in the municipality



ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To report on the performance of the Electricity Department during the 2007/2008 financial year.
- 1.2 To highlight the major achievements of the electricity department as well as the challenges still faced by the electricity department.
- 1.3 To recommend on the decisions that may be necessary to correct or to institute controls where necessary.

2. HIGHLIGHT OF 2007/2008 FINANCIAL YEAR

- 2.1 The Director Electrical Engineering as well as the Deputy Director resigned in 2007.
- 2.2 I4Z Consulting Engineers was appointed to take responsibility of running the Electricity Department.
- 2.3 In January 2008, the electricity industry experienced power interruptions emanating from Eskom failing to meet the electricity demand. These outages were later referred to as load shedding.
- 2.4 UMTshezi Municipality was grossly affected by load shedding in terms of reduced revenue and increased operating costs due to the fact that the senior staff were now used for switching operations to reduce the peak load to support Eskom.
- 2.5 Operations and maintenance was therefore neglected for a time as all the available resources were now channeled to deal with load shedding.

4. ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

Team meetings are done on daily basis where tasks of every member are discussed and planned in detail with full accountability for work done. Safety in the workplace as well as on site is always stressed to staff and all staff members have been issued with a safety manual.

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We are also very proud to mention that this department has to date not experienced any major or minor injury on duty where staff is concerned.

During this period a number of policy documents have been compiled and implemented as listed below:

- Overhead line
- Substation
- Street lighting
- Operating instructions
- Update of Safety Rules

Electricity By-Laws have been updated and implemented

5. TRAINING

Due to the lack of external training, the Department's only option was to use in-house training mechanisms and those were organized either by our own staff or suppliers willing to assist in training needs.

Training and capacity building is ongoing with the three senior members of staff now remaining at the Electricity Department, i.e. Electrical Engineering Technician, Superintendent and the Senior Electrician. Also a Technician in training has been taken on for a one year training contract. He will complete his training at the end of December 2008.

The Department has undertaken to continue assisting the learners in the electrical field which are taken on using the Learnership program. This will benefit learners, Council as well as the industry as learners receive full training and in the mean time fill the gap of staff shortages for the Department and also contribute to the completion of work. On completion these learners will fill the gaps in the industry. During this period, 10 learners have been trained particularly in regards to the electrification projects.

The Electrical Department is committed to continue with the training of Artisan Electricians.

6. ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The Electricity Department budget has been in line with the 5 year Master Electricity Plan and IDP. The Budget is monitored and controlled on several different levels with very strict procedures for expenditure where only authorized persons may approve expenditure after consultation with immediate supervisor. This department has implemented the Supply Chain Management Controls in terms of Council's Policy.

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During the year there was a lack of Capital Budget funding and only a few emergency work was done.

7. TARIFFS

The annual tariffs were prepared during the 2007/2008 financial year. The increases were very steep due to the Eskom tariff increase that was 35.9%. The Municipality applied for tariff increases that were between 20 and 36%. This increase was approved by Council as well as NERSA and it was in line with the ESKOM increase margin. It can be recorded as the highest percentage increase so far due to the ESKOM enormous increase.

This amounted to a lot of time being spent explaining to Customers on the reasons for such a high increase. Also presentations had to be made to NERSA in Pretoria to justify the Council's tariff changes which were successfully defended. It has since been discovered that Council's tariffs are below even the NERSA benchmarks.

8. STAFF MATTERS

Two crucial positions of the Department: Director Technical as well as the Senior Manager Electrical has been vacated during this period and Council has decided to appoint Consultants instead. Several different levels of responsibility have been introduced and one aiming at achieving good results in the Department as well as reporting on different levels with strong emphasis on productivity and accountability. Meeting deadlines, providing quality service and employee safety are amongst the most important aspects in the department. Consultants have been appointed to provide a support function, however due to the lack of ability of the staff to manage, its scope of the initial appointment has been increased. The electricity department experienced challenges where senior members of staff indicated a strong sense of incompatibility. This has compromised the safety of each individual as well as making it difficult to ensure a smooth running of the operations. Also there is number of vacancies of skilled positions which has not yet been filled.

9. MAJOR EVENT

During this period ESKOM has experienced major problems with capacity which resulted in sporadic interruptions and in April and May with regular load shedding affecting residential and commercial customers. This has taken a tremendous amount of time and affected operations of the Department as a whole. During this period there was a lack of maintenance as the Department was mainly used to assist ESKOM to reduce the electricity load.